



The Huntly Herald

A Message from Head of School Kathleen Grove

Dear Wakefield Country Day School Families, Alumni and Friends,

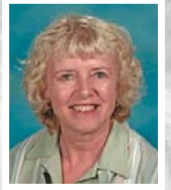
What defines Wakefield Country Day School? Our mission statement guides us: The mission of Wakefield Country Day School is to develop each student's character and intellect through active involvement in a structured curriculum founded on classical principles and in an environment that encourages scholarship, diligence, self-discipline, and respect for and service to others.

During the past year, our school community has examined this statement to assess its implementation. We have devoted our faculty meetings to discussing each phrase to fully understand its implications and then to evaluate our program's response. In July, the Board analyzed the mission statement at its retreat. In August, I met with our juniors and seniors and engaged in the same discussion. Overall, we agree that we are fulfilling our mission statement and that the direction it provides makes our school special and unique.

Here are some examples suggested by students and faculty. We develop each student's character through our explicit attention to courtesy, behavior, and the Honor Code. Our rigorous curricula and the support from teachers and fellow students combine to develop each student's intellect. Labs, presentations, activities, and projects emphasize active involvement. Our structured curriculum is manifested in our reading and mathematics

programs, the WOD, and the Great 100. Our traditions, double English periods, ancient languages, classical literature, and vocabulary and writing focus are founded on classical principles. Our many awards and achievements within school and outside of school document an environment that encourages scholarship. High expectations for hard work and homework with firm deadlines encourage diligence and self-discipline. (The students took some pride in this aspect of their school experience.) The courtesies, the small student body, and the expectations for kindness encourage respect for others. The Key Club and the high level of volunteerism demonstrate service to others.

This year we are maintaining our focus on our mission through initiatives and activities that you may read about in this document. We formalized the signing of the Honor Code, recognized good behavior through "owls," distributed and checked student planners in the middle grades, and increased our support to new students. Faculty members are targeting aspects of the mission statement in their individual goals for the year. A study group is working on a more complete definition of "a classical education." Virtus et Sapientia - at Wakefield Country Day School we recognize that knowledge does



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"Trick or Treat" Fun on Halloween

WCDS became the playground for a host of both scary and heroic characters on Halloween, with many young goblins, ghosts, action figures, witches, princesses and other assorted characters exploring the spooky Haunted House painstakingly assembled by Student Government. There were screams, and quite a few giggles echoing through the halls, as students toured the school in search of "treats." Our kindergartners also participated in a special field trip to the Lynn Care Center in Front Royal, much to the joy of its elderly residents. Expertly trained by Mrs. Nilan and Mrs. Pressler, the boys and girls delighted their audience with dramatic presentations of poems such as October and an animated rendition of "The Twelve Days of Halloween." Supplementing the mounds of candy and other treats at school were special "candy-grams" purchased by students for their friends and delivered in the afternoon, with the proceeds benefiting Junior Classical League. Special thanks to the Key Club members for their help with both the set-up and then helping to man the Flint Hill Volunteer Fire and Rescue's Haunted House.



Wakefield Country Day School Celebrates Homecoming with Numerous Festivities

October found Wakefield Country Day School's building and grounds the venues for a myriad of entertaining activities in conjunction with its 33rd annual Homecoming celebration. The weekend festivities were kicked off with a bonfire hosted by the Key Club to raise funds for various charitable causes they plan to support throughout the year. Under the direction and supervision of Flint Hill Volunteer Fire and Rescue members, nearly all of the WCDS students in seventh through twelfth grade gathered

in the lower soccer field for the official lighting of a debris pile that measured at least fifteen feet high. Club officers Kevin Riedel and Saawan Mehta did the official lighting and soon had everyone "fired up." The student group also enjoyed taking turns in a "car smashing," and participated in games like Capture the Flag and Sardines throughout the evening. Simultaneously taking place was an indoor celebration, attended by Wakefield alumni, parents of alumni, former and current faculty, parents and staff. Former students who had graduated as far back as 1983 and up through 2005 spent the evening socializing, reminiscing and dancing to the sounds of Bluestone, a local blues band whose musical talent includes David Ruckman, a Wakefield parent. Some of the visitors had not been back to Wakefield Country Day School for a visit



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Science & Technology News



MITRE Corporation Assists WCDS

Once again, the MITRE Corporation has helped WCDS in its efforts to keep pace with 21st Century technology, by donating lap tops, desk tops and monitors to our school.

Attention WCDS Community:

Don't forget to check out the NEW Forums on the WCDS website. To register, visit

www.wakefieldcnds.org

Find the Forum that fits you best. It's a great place to chat & share news!

Anonymous Donors Fund New Computer Lab

During the summer, WCDS was extremely fortunate to have two good friends of Wakefield give a generous "anonymous" donation that was earmarked specifically for a computer lab for our students. Thanks to their generosity, we now have fifteen Dell computer stations with flat panel LCD monitors. Each has a CD writer, five units have a DVD writer, and one unit is equipped for digital video editing. The lab also has an LCD projector for teaching presentations, and a high capacity laser printer. When asked what the motivation was behind this generous donation, we received the following response and thought we would share it with our Wakefield community:

Wakefield Country Day School has been involved in teaching students the classics for about thirty-three years. And if you look into the yearbooks from the early years at WCDS, you might be amazed to learn that the school had a computer class very early in its history. It was a class dedicated to preparing students for the next challenge in their educational experience. Not a lot has changed at WCDS. They are still teaching the classics – and doing a great job of it, if you look at the school's recent test results. Technology, however, has changed by leaps and bounds, and computers

are a costly expenditure for a small school with a limited budget.

Since we remain continually amazed with the caliber of students WCDS turns out, we wanted to contribute the computer lab to furnish today's students with the tools they need to prepare themselves for that next step into the world, just as the founders of the school did so many years ago.

We hope that the new computer lab will supplement the already great education students are receiving at WCDS. The greatest emphasis in a school, we believe, should be to teach students how to "think," so that they can effectively and ethically use whatever "tool" the future might bring. That is what Wakefield Country Day School does so well. We hope that the students enjoy the new lab, and that the staff will continue to uphold the very high standards set by the school's founders thirty-three years ago.

2005 Student Government



Student Government News

Donated Tsunami Relief Funds Tracked

At an assembly on October 26th, students were given an update from WCDS parent Alaina Cugnon on how funds that Student Government had raised last year for Thailand Tsunami Relief were specifically used to improve the lives of 128 families in one small fishing village who had suffered total devastation to their homes and livelihoods. A video was shown of the village in its rebuilding process, allowing students to see firsthand the results of their efforts, and to feel a personal connection to the families.

2005 Officers and Prefects

Student representatives and prefects took their oaths of office during a Wakefield Country Day School assembly held on September 16, 2005. Led by Student Government President

Allison Russo and Vice President Caitlin Hammelman, the students took the pledge, "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of prefect/class representative in accordance with the Student Government Charter, that I will use my office to benefit my peers, and that I will, to the best of my ability, support, defend, and preserve the Wakefield way." The student representatives for 2005-2006 are Alex Foster (fourth grade), Henry Johnson (fifth grade), Steven Marsh (sixth grade), Christine Pankow, (seventh grade) Katie Huang (eighth grade), Audrey Speer (ninth grade), Alex Shafran (tenth grade), Ben Luke (eleventh grade), and Marissa Sullivan (twelfth grade). The class prefects are Timothy Pressler (seventh grade), Christian Martinez (eighth grade), Andrew Schaus (ninth grade), Joy Heddleston (tenth grade), Jody Green (eleventh grade), and Dorian Matthews (twelfth grade).



Help for Victims of Hurricane Katrina

Early this fall, Student Government held special bake sales to raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, selling an assortment of desserts and other baked goods in the morning, at lunch time and during sports activities and they also collected donations in boxes scattered throughout the school. WCDS's student government officers Allison Russo (president) and Caitlin Hammelman (vice president) visited the Fauquier Chapter of the American Red Cross and presented Phyllis McBride, the Acting Executive Director, with a check for \$875.00.

WCDS Welcomes New Staff

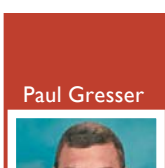
In order to accommodate its burgeoning student enrollment, this fall Wakefield established a second kindergarten class. WCDS's resident kindergarten teacher, Kathleen Nilan, who has taught kindergarten at Wakefield for the past eleven years, was joined by **Stephanie Pressler**, who previously worked at WCDS as an assistant in the kindergarten classroom and as co-director of Wakefield's after-school care program. Mrs. Pressler holds a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University.

Paul Gresser is Wakefield's new addition in the prep school. He teaches Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus, and acts as sponsor of the school newspaper, *The Hoot*. Mr. Gresser is finishing up his doctoral program in physics and mathematics at the University of Maryland. As a tutor and lab instructor, Mr. Gresser has presented at national conferences on lesson design and classroom dynamics.

Amanda Hoffman is teaching third grade this year, filling the vacancy created when Chris Chatelain moved up to fourth grade. With a Master's of Arts in Teaching degree from Mary Baldwin College and experience as a classroom teacher in primary grades within the Shenandoah County public schools, Miss Hoffman brings high energy and enthusiasm to her new assignment as well as a degree in nursing.



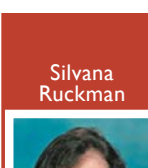
Stephanie Pressler



Paul Gresser



Amanda Hoffman



Silvana Ruckman



Lisa Cieplak



Jon Heddleston



Ten Students Earn Rank of AP Scholar

This fall, officials at Wakefield Country Day School were notified by the College Board that ten of its students had earned the distinction of being named AP Scholars in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advance Placement (AP) Program Exams. Approximately 18% of the more than one million high school students worldwide who took the AP Exams performed at a level high enough to merit recognition as an AP Scholar. Paul Beattie is an AP Scholar with Distinction, having earned an average grade of 3.5 or higher (the maximum score is a 5) on all exams taken, and a grade of at least 3 on five or more of these exams. Seven students were named AP

Beginning in preschool, children now study Spanish with **Silvana Ruckman**, who is teaching this romance language to lower school students through grade seven. Fully bilingual, Mrs. Ruckman has already incorporated songs, games, and technology into her lesson plans. She is pursuing her Master's in Education through Old Dominion University.

Also working with the lower school is **Lisa Cieplak**, who serves as a classroom assistant in kindergarten and grade one and helps with after-school care. Mrs. Cieplak has previous expertise not only as a preschool teacher but also as a Senate staffer – quite a combination!

In addition to more opportunities for technology study and use, this year students have the opportunity to take public speaking, taught by Sperryville's own **Reverend Jon Heddleston**, well-known for his rhetorical skills. Reverend Heddleston has a B.A. in English from Kent State University, and has taught high school English and public speaking.

Message from Mrs. Grove - cont'd from p.1

not exist without virtue, and virtue requires knowledge. Wakefield Country Day School provides our community a classical education that develops character and intellect.

Enjoy the holidays!

Kathleen F. Grove

Academic News

"Owls" Abound at WCDS

This year, Head of School Kathleen Grove announced a new initiative at WCDS. In an effort to recognize the good that students do, each month teachers are given a set number of "owls" which they can award to students who display good citizenship and/or notably demonstrate one of the Wakefield courtesies. Mrs. Grove was careful to explain that every good deed does not automatically warrant an award. Students singled out for recognition receive a paper owl with the teacher's signature and date. At the end of each month, the grade level with the most owls wins a reward. So far the tenth grade has earned the most "owls" for two consecutive months, and they have been treated to a special lunch and dessert as their reward.

Commended Student Named

During October, Head of School Kathleen Grove announced that senior Allison Russo has been named a Commended Student in the 2006 National Merit Scholarship Program. Mrs. Grove congratulated Ms. Russo on her placement in the top 5% of the more than one million high school students who entered the competition by taking the 2004 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The program measures students' critical reading, math, and writing skills. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the United States were recognized this fall for the "exceptional academic promise" they exhibited in this rigorous, nationwide competition.



Sports Update



WCDS Athletes of the Month Named

The WCDS Athletic Department was pleased to announce the following students as "Athletes of the Month" for September and October.

Allison Russo, a senior, was named female athlete for September in recognition of her outstanding efforts as captain of the Girls' Varsity Volleyball team this season. WCDS Athletic Director Mike Kenney praised Allison for her leadership, drive, and dedication to "giving her all," even when injured.

Kevin Riedel, a junior, was named September's male athlete for his superb record on the Cross-Country team. Kevin placed among the top five runners in six different cross-country meets, competing in each case against 90 or more other competitors. He placed 1st at the Fresta Valley meet, first at the Massanutten Military Academy meet, 4th at both the Great Meadows meet and the Randolph Macon Academy meet, and 5th at both the James Long Park meet and the Quantico meet. Kevin finished in 63rd place in the state cross country meet held Friday, November 11, at Woodberry Forest School in Orange, Virginia.

In October, Abby Whitaker, eighth grade and Brian Shafran, sixth grade, received the student-athlete designation.

Brian Shafran, the male athlete for the month of October, was a stalwart player on the middle school soccer team and played an integral role in securing the regular season and tournament titles in the Valley Middle School Conference. According to Athletic Director Mike Kenney "Brian's goal early in the championship contest gave the Owls some much needed momentum."

Abigail Whitaker, WCDS' female athlete

for October, was a stand-out on the WCDS varsity cross country team. Abby, "continually performed admirably against the boys at practice, and finished in the top ten at a coed meet at Massanutten Military Academy," according to Coach Kenney. She finished in the top seven in each of her last eight races.



Coca Cola Supports WCDS Athletic Program

Thanks to the efforts of WCDS Athletic Director Mike Kenney and the generosity of Coca Cola, WCDS now has an official scoreboard for its soccer field.



New Sports Uniforms

Due to the generosity of WCDS parents Lenore and Dan Marsh, the middle school boys are now sporting new soccer jerseys.



Congratulations to the WCDS Middle School Teams!!!

The WCDS Middle School Boys Soccer team earned a 5-0-1 record to win the regular season and then the tournament of the Valley Middle School Conference (VMSC). The WCDS Middle School Girls Volleyball team tied for the regular season title and placed second in the MVSC volleyball tournament, with an overall record of 9-4. WCDS is proud of their sportsmanship and teamwork!

WCDS Honors Its Athletes at Fall Sports Banquet

On November 4, 2005, nearly 200 parents and students gathered in the Leonard M. Cowherd Auditorium to recognize the efforts of the young men and women involved in fall sports at WCDS. The sports highlighted were varsity soccer, middle school soccer, varsity volleyball, middle school volleyball, cross-country, fencing and polo. In varsity boys' soccer, Alex Shafran was awarded the Golden Boot for his abilities on offense, Ho Sung Woo received the Golden Ball award for his defensive efforts, Ben Luke received the "Most Improved" award, and Patrick Dale was given the Coach's Award. In middle school boys' soccer, Timmy Pressler was named "Most Valuable Player," Steven Marsh received the "Most Improved" award, and Ian McCool received the Coach's Award. In middle school girls' volleyball, Christine Pankow of Flint Hill earned the title of "Most Valuable Player," Laura Bancroft was awarded a trophy for "Most Improved," and Sarah Hazel of Sperryville received the Coach's Award. Taylor Hammelman received the "Most Improved" award in varsity girls' volleyball, Caitlin Hammelman received the Coach's Award, and Allison Russo earned the title of Most Valuable

Player. Allison also was selected second-team all conference performer in the Delaney Athletic Conference. Audrey Speer was singled out for recognition of her achievements at the national level in fencing, and Sebastian Langenberg was applauded for his accomplishments in polo, having played in several United States Polo Association (USPA) tournaments.

This was a special night for all the Wakefield athletes, who were congratulated by Head of School Kathleen Grove for both their fine athletic efforts and their sportsmanship on the field. Mrs. Grove noted with pride that the students had throughout the season demonstrated the WCDS athletic dictum to be, "always humble in victory and gracious in defeat."

At various intervals throughout the evening, students thanked their coaches for their guidance and time: Jessica Patton, who coached middle school girls' volleyball; WCDS athletic director Mike Kenney, who coached cross-country; Dick Hudgins, who coached middle school boys' soccer; Suzanne Zylonis, who coached varsity girls' volleyball; and Gali Sanchez, who coached boys' varsity soccer.



Do't forget to visit wcddssports.com for the latest sports news, team schedules, school locations, Owl Sports Gear, and links to the DAC & the VMSC sites!

Alumni News

☞ "It's a Small World" - **Ashby Reid Rushing**, a 1990 graduate of WCDS and now a 7th grade English teacher at Williamsburg Middle School, apparently crossed paths with our Head of School back when Mrs. Grove was with the Arlington School system, and Ms. Rushing also taught at Jefferson Middle School while Larry Grove was principal! She was delighted to learn Mrs. Grove was our new leader, and is sure Mrs. Grove will "...help the school thrive."

☞ **Josh Andes**, Class of '99, who graduated Summa Cum Laude from Oral Roberts University in 2003, recently announced his engagement to Tiffany Nicole Price, a 2004 VCU graduate.

☞ **John Piper**, Class of '84, now living in Arlington, recently had a story appear in the Sun Gazette featuring his wife Tracy and son Johnny. Tracy, who previously worked for President George H.W. Bush, teaches a class on childhood etiquette at several area elementary schools and also

to local boy and girl scout troops. Her "positively polite" coaching promotes better behavior while building young children's self confidence, and according to the article it has been extremely well received.

☞ **Darlene Beasley**, who attended WCDS in 1975, is now living in Auckland, New Zealand and recently sent her regards.

☞ **Dr. Wilson Parrish Daugherty**, Class of 1990, after graduating from William and Mary in 1994, went on VCU, where he received his Masters in Physiology and then an MD/PhD in 2004 from the Medical College of Virginia. He is currently at the Department of Neurosurgery at the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Daugherty married Lori Carter in 1997 and they have two children: Carter (2) and Caroline (10 months).

☞ **Holly Hutt Katzen**, Class of '88 and **David Katzen**, Class of '90, are the proud parents of two boys: Luke (4) and Charlie (1).

☞ **Renaud Houyoux**, Class of '90, is making his mark in the field of veterinary medicine. Currently a licensed veterinary technician, Renaud is pursuing specialty

certification in animal dentistry. His work includes serving as overnight ER supervisor at Alameda East Veterinary Hospital.

☞ We are launching our "Owlets" Corner, to share with WCDS friends the good news about new arrivals to WCDS families. A special welcome to Ansel Lauben, son of Gary and Marcy Lynn Lauben, Class of '91. Ansel was born on February 4, 2005.



Please share your "Owlet" with us! Send a photo and birth announcement to: publications@wakefieldcds.org

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Key Club News

Key Club started the year off with an exciting new addition to homecoming festivities with a bonfire and "car smashing." The club offered several events at the Fall Festival, organized a local park clean-up, helped the local fire company with their Haunted House, and hosted an "Evening Under the Stars," featuring a movie and refreshments. Upcoming events include a "Coffee House" on December 3rd, and "Soup for Supper" on December 9th, preceding the Christmas Concert. Proceeds from all their events will benefit a number of local charities. This year's Key Club officers are: Saawan Mehta and Kevin Riedel – president, Patrick Dale – vice president, Caitlin Hammelman – secretary, Song-Yi Chang and Dan Carrier – treasurer, Katie Doss – editor, Allison Russo – assistant editor.

Alumni News

Continued from p. 5

• Nikolai Konick, Class of '97, recently checked in with an update on his experiences "post-Wakefield." A 2001 graduate of Columbia College (comparative religion and creative writing), he is currently a regional sales director for a small import company. When asked about noteworthy events in his life, Nikolai responded, "honestly, nothing special after graduating from Wakefield – it's still the biggest accomplishment of my life!"

• Congratulations to Sean Bennett, Class of 1988, who recently graduated from the Denver Medical School at the University of Colorado with an MD, and a PhD in Immunology and Microbiology. Bennett's new "home" is Dartmouth University Medical School, where he is a resident in pediatrics, specializing in childhood cancers.

• The world of scientific research is benefiting from the talents of one more WCDS graduate. Sanjeev Ranade, Class of '99, has been working at Harvard since January, doing biology research in its chemical biology department.

• Congratulations also go out to Pornpimon and Alex Aiken, former WCDS parents who were transferred to Texas with their son Alex a few years ago and were recently joined by a new daughter, Alisa, who weighed in at 5 pounds, 8oz.

Please Join us for the
2005 Silver Bucket Game

Monday, December 26th at 1:00 p.m.

Come see the Alumni Defend their Title!!

Development News



Edward A. and Catherine L. Lozick Foundation Helps Fund Cowherd Scholarship

Several weeks ago, we received a grant from the Edward A. and Catherine L. Lozick Foundation to help fund the scholarship established in memory of Army Second Lieutenant Leonard M. Cowherd, III, a 1999 WCDS graduate who died May 16, 2004, in Iraq while in the service of his country. The scholarship, which covers tuition costs, excluding books and fees, for one boy and one girl student to attend the Prep School, was announced last year at a special Veteran's Day service at the school honoring Leonard Cowherd. The intent of the scholarship is to identify individuals who exemplify the character traits exhibited by Leonard Cowherd and also to help others learn about him and honor his memory.

WCDS First Graders Lead Off Front Royal Rotary Program



On September 30th, our first grade class made a brief visit to Front Royal to greet the Front Royal Rotary Club members and their guests at the group's weekly Friday luncheon at Dean's Steakhouse. They were accompanied by Trish Wingfield and Head of School Kathleen Grove, who was the featured luncheon speaker. The students led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance, and followed up with a rousing rendition of "God Bless America." Club President Alan Wimer then gave each child the opportunity to introduce himself and tell the audience where he or she lived. Wakefield begins the process of helping its students learn poise, public speaking and how to behave in public settings by providing both in-house opportunities and outside field trips such as this one.

Attention Alumni: Don't forget to check out the NEW Alumni Forum on the WCDS website. To register visit

www.wakefieldcds.org

It's a great place to chat & share news!

American Express Foundation Funds New Science Books

Thanks to a mini-grant from the American Express Foundation's Global Volunteer Action Fund, WCDS was able to purchase new Science text books for the fourth grade's 2005-2006 academic year.

Air Conditioned Auditorium Becomes a Reality



Patti Brown presents Mrs. Grove with her \$10,000 check, putting the AC drive over the top

After two years, and various fund raisers that included a pizza drive and a yard sale, the Auditorium at WCDS is now air conditioned! Special thanks to contributors to the Leonard Cowherd Memorial fund, our parents and friends who supported this special fund raising effort, and to co-chairs Patti Brown and Cindy Lester, for their hard work.

Rappahannock National Bank Supports Scholarship Fund

For the third year running, our friends at Rappahannock National Bank have generously donated to our Scholarship Fund. Thank you to Mike Leake and his staff for their continued support.

WCDS is Recipient of Equipment and Supplies

Thanks to the efforts of WCDS parent Elaine Carrier, WCDS was recently the recipient of computers, supplies and other equipment from the Thermo Electron Corporation.

"Rain Drops (No Longer) Falling On Our Heads"

Thanks to generous donations from WCDS parents Gregory and Wendy Bancroft and WCDS grandparent Paul Bancroft, our roof problems have been resolved.

Old Dominion Hounds Hunt Adds Ambiance to the School

Thanks to a special donation from Rappahannock County's Old Dominion Hounds Hunt, WCDS now has the luxury of adjusting its light intensity, due to new dimmer switches in the auditorium, upper and lower lobbies.

Six WCDS Students and Their Remarkable Summer Achievements

Spotlight On...

8th Grader Succeeds at Horse Trials

This fall, **Louise Johns**, an eighth grader who has been riding since she was five years old, competed in four horse trials hosted by the U.S. Eventing Association, placing twice in the top ten. Louise placed 8th at the Virginia Horse Trials in Lexington, and 7th at Waredaca Horse Trials in Maryland. Horse trials are three-phased competitions in which the horse and rider must (1) successfully jump a cross-country course, (2) jump over 3'3" obstacles in a show jumping ring, and (3) perform a dressage test. Often referred to as equine ballet because of its beauty and elegance, dressage, an Olympic sport that tests the maneuvers of a horse in response to body signals by the rider, represents the highest level of training a horse can achieve.



5th Grader Wins "Best Exhibitor" at Fauquier County Fair

This summer, **Henry Johnson**, a fifth grader, won the Best Exhibitor for Poultry award at the Fauquier County Fair, which involved having the most ribbons for chickens, as well as enthusiasm and participation in the county fair. Henry has been raising chickens since the age of 5 and is considered WCDS's resident chicken expert!

9th Grader Distinguishes Himself at Polo

Sebastian Langenberg, a ninth grader and an avid horseman, has been playing polo for the last three years and recently won recognition for his proficiency in the sport. Sebastian has played in five polo clubs; Upperville Polo Club, Great Meadow, Foxlease Polo Club, Kievit Polo Club and Cheatwood Park Polo Club. In each instance, the clubs awarded him "most improved junior polo player." In October 2005, Sebastian was invited to play in the USPA Invitational 8 Goal Tournament in Aiken, South Carolina, where he played with distinction against many internationally renowned polo players. Throughout 2005, Sebastian has played in several United States Polo Association (USPA) tournaments, as well as playing and hosting the Queens Guard, the Blue and the Royals. His team won the USPA 2005 Arena Amateur Cup and every game in the September 2005 Great Meadow Polo league. He also played in the Saturday Night "Polo Under The Stars" matches at Great Meadow. Sebastian has been invited to play in Chile this

December in a 16 goal tournament alongside Martin Zegers, one of the world's best polo players.

9th Grader a True "Saber Rattler"

Audrey Speer, a ninth grader who has been fencing since she was eight years old, was the silver medal winner in the 2005 U.S. Fencing Association Southeast Section Championships, and in 2004 she successfully competed in the Junior Olympic Championships, placing 26th. Audrey currently holds the title in the U.S. Fencing Association - Virginia Division Champion, Open Women's Saber, as well as the Virginia Division Cadet Champion, Women's Saber.

WCDS Senior Achieves Rank of Eagle Scout

Head of School Kathleen Grove recently extended congratulations to senior **Dorian Matthews** on his recent achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Dorian joins the ranks of a select group of boy scouts (only about 4% of the total membership) who, since 1911, have earned this highest advancement rank in scouting. In order to attain the rank of Eagle Scout, Dorian was required to fulfill specific requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills, while advancing through the various scout ranks: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and finally Eagle. He earned over 21 merit badges, in areas that included First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Environmental Science, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Camping, and Family Life. A talented

wood-working artisan, Dorian chose as his eagle scout project (requiring a minimum of 80 hours – to which he devoted over 120) the planning, design, and creation by his local scout troop of the beautiful signs that grace the north and south entrances to the town of Flint Hill on Route 522.

9th Grader Participates in a "High Adventure Scouting Expedition"

This summer, ninth grader **Jim Hennessy** was chosen from thousands of applicants to participate with a select group of boy scouts in an annual trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. At the end of his 11 day journey, he had successfully trekked 80 miles in the wilderness, rock climbed, and scaled two mountains, while fine tuning his survival skills.

The journey began with a four-day session in Colorado to train and become acclimated to the elevation change, and the stopover included white water rafting, mountain climbing and bungee jumping. After arriving in Cimarron, the group hiked each day an average of 6 to 10 miles. They accomplished incredible feats such as climbing Baldy Mountain, with an elevation of 12,441 feet, while carrying 40-50 pound backpacks, braving hail storms and overcoming other daunting physical challenges. Described as a "strenuous high adventure scouting expedition," the trip tested not only the boys' physical endurance and stamina, but also their cooking skills, "leave no trace" skills, and planning abilities.

While out on the trail, the scouts enjoyed diversions such as skeet shooting, burro racing, gold panning and blacksmithing. According to Jim, the highlight of his trip was "going up on Baldy Mountain and flying a kite. The view was just incredible." To train for the expedition, he hiked both along the Appalachian Trail and on Massanutten Mountain. Jim's goal is to achieve the rank of eagle scout, and having successfully completed this challenge, he is well on his way.



WCDS Salutes Veterans with a Special Assembly



This year, WCDS chose to honor veterans with a special Veteran's Day assembly, featuring as the guest speaker, Mr. Robert Darby of Woodville. Mr. Darby, himself a veteran, graduated from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland in 1959 and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy, during which time he served aboard two destroyers and a submarine. During his remarks, Mr. Darby spoke with pride of his service in the Navy, and noted that, "serving your country as a member of our Armed Forces is a high calling, and a highly worthwhile career..." He also spoke of the life-long friendships he formed in the Navy some 45 years ago and outlined some of the history behind this special federal holiday. Mr. Darby singled out for special recognition two local veterans, Carson Johnson and John Marocchi. He closed his remarks with the words, "We owe our thanks to Carson and John, and millions of others who unfortunately have had to fight all too often to protect our freedom." Mrs. Grove asked those assembled to join in a moment of silence in honor of all veterans, and the assembly ended with *America the Beautiful*, sung by the Wakefield Singers.



Homecoming Festivities – continued from page 1

in over fifteen years and were amazed and pleased to see how little the school had changed, both physically and curriculum-wise. Scattered throughout the school were photographs of days gone by, and one bulletin board that was particularly popular was the challenge, "How many of the Great 100 do you remember?" This refers to one of the longstanding WCDS traditions of students studying the contributions of a set group of one hundred significant historical figures, beginning in fourth grade and continuing with increasing detail throughout the prep school years.

Saturday, the beauty of Rappahannock County in October served as the back-drop for the school's Fall Festival, which was organized in sections scattered throughout the school grounds. The festival was open to the public, and beautiful fall plants for sale by Student Government, combined with a yard sale hosted by parents in the front yard, attracted quite a few local passers-by. Children had their choice of any number of activities from which to choose, and each class hosted a different activity to help raise funds for their pet projects. Among the offerings: Model United Nations had face painting, baked goods and the ever-popular moon bounce; fifth and sixth grades offered ring toss, tattoos and a grab bag; second and third

grades had pumpkin painting and cider, the Library sold books for only 25 cents and also provided necklace making; the Key Club offered students a football toss as well as s'mores and a piñata; and Pre-School challenged little ones to "Guess how many beans are in the jar?" with the grand prize a bear from one of their favorite stories. Kindergarten teacher Stephanie Pressler had her famous "Frisbee dogs" on hand; the Drama Club provided a fortune-teller; pre-kindergarten offered delicious hot food; kindergarten sold refreshments; the Dance Team sponsored sack races; the fourth grade challenged visitors to egg races; first grade did a bean bag toss; Silvana Ruckman presented a "Spanish challenge" with a ball toss called La Granja; a popular new addition was Yearbook's creative mini-golf course, and eighth grade offered not only basketball but also a hands-on science project for the budding young scientists in the crowd.

The weekend was capped by a prep school dance on Saturday evening, with an autumn theme.

In observing all the activities, Head of School Kathleen Grove noted, "It is such a pleasure to see so many smiling faces, spanning so many generations, as we celebrate Homecoming and the beauty of Rappahannock County in the fall with our families, friends and neighbors."



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